

Dear FCC This letter is in response to the NOI for GN Docket No. 07-45.

If you bear with me I will relate my experiences with the lack of true 'advanced telecommunications capability' in a semi-rural area. I currently live @ 4 miles (as the crow flies) from Buffalo, MN in Wright County. Wright County is @ 40 miles NW of Minneapolis, MN. Though much of the area in which I live is considered rural Wright County is one of the fastest growing counties in MN. When I obtained my first computer, @ 1998, the only option that I knew of for Internet access was a dial up account. It was brutal waiting for pages to load and could hardly even be considered 'internet access'.

In early 2000 we obtained a Hughes (then DirecPC) satellite system for Internet access. This original system was 'one way'. This meant that it used a dial up modem to access the satellite and the return came from the satellite. The download speeds back then were excellent, by satellite standards, often exceeding 1200 kbps. The upload speeds were still poor though, rarely exceeding 16 kbps. Bad weather also degrades, or totally knocks out, access to the Internet when using satellite technology. For years I continued to hope for true broadband.

In mid 2005 it seemed that my wait was over. Upon visiting Qwest's website it seemed that DSL had finally come to my area. I called and immediately ordered 1.5 Mbps service. Upon obtaining and installing the equipment I still did not have service. Qwest dispatched one of their workers to assess the problem. As it turned out I could not obtain DSL, contrary to Qwest's assurances, as I was too far from the 'switch'. As I understand it, you have to be within 20,000 feet and I was more in the neighborhood of 26,000. This led to an exchange of letters with Qwest Customer Service to try to understand the situation and see when DSL might become available. Unfortunately I came away knowing little more then when I started. I inquired about what was required before Qwest brought DSL into an area and I was told that this was proprietary information. They also did not have any estimate when DSL might be an option for me.

Next I visited Charter Communications, the cable provider in Buffalo. They were quite helpful and came out to assess the area where I live.

Once again this led to disappointment. It seems that they are limited to running cable only into areas that have at least 40 homes. My immediate area has only 14.

Next I contacted Buffalo Wireless Internet Group. They have a wireless Internet network in the city of Buffalo. They came out and found that the signal was too weak to guarantee acceptable service.

I then spent the next year waiting on another wireless network being expanded in Monticello, MN, a town @ 10 miles from my location. They were hoping to have a range of @ 36 miles. My wait turned out to be for naught. Once again the signal was inadequate.

So last month I took the plunge. I spent @ \$450 to buy, and have installed, some used upgraded satellite equipment. This is the Hughes DW7000. For the first time in many years I do not have to tie up the phone line while I am on the web. Unfortunately I do not feel that satellite Internet can be considered true broadband. I currently have a consumer account that limits my download speeds to a maximum of 700 kbps and an upload that will not exceed 128 kbps. Satellite also has what they call their Fair Access Policy (FAP). This is the maximum usage, up and down, that a subscriber is allowed in a 24-hour period. On the consumer plan my FAP is 200MB. If I should exceed this my download speeds would drop to almost nothing for @ the next 24 hours. I could pay more and get slightly higher speeds and a larger FAP 'bucket' but I figure \$59.99 is enough (cable would be about the same cost but with up to 6 Mbps and DSL would be about half that for 3 Mbps, both without a FAP).

With satellite technology I know that I will never download a TV show I missed (usually @ 300-350 MBs) or the many pod casts on a variety of subjects I would like to watch. Streaming these is also out of the question due to the FAP. Also with satellite, the possibility of Internet gaming is negligible. Due to the lag (time to get up to the satellite and back down to a server) the action would move past me before I knew it was happening. I am 58 years old but would still like to experience this. VOIP is also out of the question, once again due to the lag. Doesn't sound like true broadband, does it?

So here I sit living in the country. As it stands now I can look out my front door and see a home that has access to wireless Internet. I can take a 20-minute walk to the SE and see where DSL ends or I can walk to the NW for 20 minutes and see where cable ends. To add insult to injury, I can walk 5 minutes to the north and be in an area that is not serviced by Qwest. They can get DSL. Somehow it just doesn't seem fair. But I do love living in the country. I just wish we had the options that the majority of the rest of the country seems to have.

I thank you for your time.

Roy A Elliott
5185 Clementa Ave NW
Buffalo, MN 55313

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<NAME>R
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Elliott
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NW
<ADDRESS2>
<CITY>Buffalo
<STATE>MN
<Z

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<LAW-FIRM>
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